

Workforce &amp; Career Development Division

## Director's Corner

*Potholes on the road of life  
sharpen our maneuverability skills.*  
-Kamil Ali

The summer of 2014 has started out as another challenging one for ESD.

With unemployment numbers continuing to drop and ongoing federal sequestration pressures to Wagner-Peyser funding, ESD has started planning for another agency downsizing. To prepare, ESD regional directors are working with their WDC counterparts to find new ways to collaborate, rethink and restructure how local services are delivered to job seekers and businesses. Difficult times call for creative ways to get the job done well. Services will need to be delivered differently – with more services delivered through technology, more remote service offerings, and the centralizing of services within regions to leverage staff capacity, location and access. All of us will need to help our system staff, partners and community members adjust to a different kind of presence from what we have traditionally provided in the past.

In the months ahead, I ask that we all work together to share our ideas on how we can reimagine our services so that we can go through this shift and be a stronger, more viable service employment solution for our customers into the future. Change is never easy, but we can build a bright future together!

## Program Year 2014 Federal Common Measures Targets Negotiated

The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (WTECB) and Employment Security Department (ESD) recently negotiated PY14 federal Common Measures performance targets with the US Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (US DOL ETA) for the state's Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Wagner-Peyser Act programs. WTECB is now engaging the 12 local Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) to adjust local area performance targets so that those targets, if met, will ensure the state meets its targets. Federal WIA Section 503 incentive grants, which can be used for infrastructure support, coordination with partner programs, and staff capacity building, are partly based on exceeding the WIA Title I-B targets. For a table of the negotiated performance targets, please refer to [Workforce Information Notice \(WIN\) 0059](#).

## Washington Awarded \$6,175,000 for Job-Driven NEG

On June 27th, US DOL ETA announced it awarded \$6,175,000 to Washington state for the Job-Driven National Emergency Grant. Funds will be used to train workers who lost a job through no fault of their own—including WIA Dislocated Worker-eligible individuals and the long-term unemployed—for jobs in high-demand industries. Funds will also be used to provide core, intensive and support services; attainment of industry-recognized credentials and certificates; and work-based training opportunities. Services under the two-year grant will be delivered regionally through Workforce Development Councils in coordination with their WIA, employer, one-stop, and community partners.

## Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (HR 803) Passed by US Senate

The US Senate passed House Resolution (HR) 803, also known as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), June 25th on a roll call vote of 95-3. The amended bill is slated to go directly to the US House of Representatives for floor action, but had not yet been taken up when this newsletter issue was finalized. Read more about what WIOA could mean for our workforce system in the May issue of [System Focus](#).

## Veterans Program Implementing Changes

DOL/VETS issued two new veterans program letters (VPL 03-14 and VPL 04-14) in April that refocus the efforts of DVOPs and LVERs nationwide. Among the major changes are a shift of intake and screening responsibilities to non-program staff, increasing involvement of front line staff to assess and route to veterans teams only those veterans, transitioning service members, and eligible spouses with specified barriers to employment. The stated expectation from DOL is that approximately 70% of all veterans utilizing our WorkSource system will ultimately be served by non-veteran staff, with the other 30% meeting the barrier criteria, ensuring that those veterans and other eligible participants most in need of intensive case management will receive the appropriate level of services to meet their employment readiness requirements. Additionally, the new guidelines provide specific definitions of the term “significant barriers to employment,” and include some new categories, such as veterans in the aged 18-24, a population who have traditionally struggled to find civilian employment upon leaving the military. For more details on what is defined as a significant barrier, the [VPLs are posted on the DOL website](#).

## Program Year 2014 Agricultural Outreach Plan Under Development

The Workforce & Career Development division’s (WCDD) Agricultural Services Unit submitted the state’s PY14 Agricultural Outreach Plan (AOP) to DOL on June 25th. The AOP, an annual deliverable, is also a required element in the 2012-2016 State Integrated Workforce Plan. As such, upon approval of the AOP, the plan will be considered modified vis-à-vis the AOP approval letter issued by DOL. The final plan will be posted on the [WTECB’s Workforce Investment Act page](#) with the final State Plan.

## State Auditor’s Office Auditing the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program

The State Auditor’s Office (SAO) is currently auditing the state’s Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program for FY 2013 as required by the federal Single Audit Act of 1984. The audit will encompass allowable activities, allowable costs and cost principles, cash management, period of availability of funds, eligibility, and reporting. The audit and final report are expected to be completed by the end of July.

## PY13 WIA Title I-B Annual Report Process Gets Underway

Employment System Administration and Policy (ESAP) and WCDD are collaborating to lead development of this year’s PY 2013 WIA Title I-B Annual Report, which is due to the US DOL by October 1, 2014. This annual state performance report involves both an electronic data submission and a narrative submission. The electronic data submission reflects state and local WIA expenditures and performance against the negotiated PY13 common measures targets. The narrative content, while driven by a Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) that has yet to be issued, typically focuses on and highlights WIA-funded state and local activities. The work group convened on June 17 to organize around roles and responsibilities in anticipation of the TEGL’s release. Key contributors in addition to ESAP and WCDD include the WTECB, Washington Workforce Association (WWA) and its 12 workforce development council (WDC) members, and ESD’s Labor Market and Performance Analysis branch and Information Technology and Business Integration division.

### New Policy Guidance

[WIN 0042 Change 1:](#)  
PY14 SET Demand Targets

[WIN 0052 Change 1:](#)  
WorkSource Policy  
Definitions

[WIN 0058:](#)  
DEI Round V—Solicitation  
for Grant Application

[WIN 0059:](#)  
Negotiated State Performance Goals for WIA 1B and Wagner-Peyser Activities for PY14

[WIN 0060 Change 1:](#)  
Fiscal Year 2014 Workforce Investment Act Title 1-B Dislocated Worker Mitigation

[WIN 0061:](#)  
SKIES Changes and Data Capture Requirements

### July 2014 Featured Events

**SKIES  
Train the Trainer:**  
July 14-15  
July 16-17  
July 23-24

### *Send us your feedback!*



We want this newsletter to reflect our system and welcome your suggestions for future articles. Let us know what you’d like to see! Send us an e-mail ([ESDGPWCDDTST@esd.wa.gov](mailto:ESDGPWCDDTST@esd.wa.gov)).